

1 CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION ORGANIZER

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3
4 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5
6 The present invention relates generally to Christmas
7 decoration holders.

8
9 More specifically, the present invention relates to a
10 Christmas organizer for the organization of Christmas items in
11 a sequential order for decorating a Christmas tree.

12
13 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

14
15 It can be appreciated that Christmas decoration holders
16 and containers have been in use for years. Typically,
17 Christmas decoration holders are comprised of ornament storage
18 boxes, ornament chests, ornament boxes with drawers, and light
19 boxes for storage of Christmas lights only. The main problem
20 with conventional Christmas decoration holders are they do not
21 provide storage of Christmas items in a logical manner for use
22 when decorating a tree. Another problem with conventional
23 Christmas decoration holders is they do not provide sturdy
24 hardware which is removable to store Christmas items in a

1 compact arrangement. Conventional Christmas decoration holders
2 do not provide storage for the entire collection of ornaments
3 and other Christmas items placed or used on a single Christmas
4 tree.

5
6 While conventional storage containers may be suitable for
7 the particular purpose to which they have been developed, they
8 are not as suitable for the organization of Christmas items in
9 a sequential order for decorating a tree. Also, another
10 problem is they do not provide storage for a large variety of
11 all Christmas items placed or used on a Christmas tree. In
12 these respects, the Christmas organizer according to the
13 present invention substantially departs from the conventional
14 concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides
15 an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of the
16 organization of Christmas items in a sequential order for
17 decorating a tree.

18
19 It would be highly advantageous, therefore, to remedy the
20 foregoing and other deficiencies inherent in the prior art.

21
22 Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to
23 provide a Christmas organizer that will overcome the
24 shortcomings of the prior art devices.

1 Another object of the present invention is to provide a
2 Christmas organizer for the organization of Christmas items in
3 a sequential order for decorating.

4

5 And another object is to provide a Christmas organizer
6 that organizes items in sequential/logical order, to decorate a
7 Christmas tree.

8

9 Still another object is to provide a Christmas organizer
10 that uses generally rigid nonpermanent hardware to hang
11 ornaments.

12

13 Yet another object is to provide a Christmas organizer
14 that stores the entire collection of decorations for a single
15 Christmas tree.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly, to achieve the desired objects of the instant invention in accordance with a preferred embodiment thereof, provided is a Christmas tree decoration organizer including a box having a bottom and upwardly extending opposing sides and end walls, terminating in a rim. A plurality of ornament hangers having opposing ends are removably coupled within the box. The plurality of ornament hangers extend between the opposing sides in a spaced apart parallel relationship, and are suspended above the bottom for receiving and supporting a plurality of hanging ornaments. A bulk storage space for storing outermost decorations of a Christmas tree is defined by the bottom, lower portions of the opposing sides and the end walls, and the plurality of ornament hangers. An ornament tray including dividers separating the ornament tray into a plurality of compartments is removably positioned within the box and supported above the plurality of ornament hangers for receiving and holding a plurality of Christmas tree ornaments. A separator panel is removably positioned covering the ornament tray. A light compartment is bounded by upper portions of the opposing sides and end walls, and the rim of the box for holding bundles of Christmas tree lights. A cover is removable engaged with the rim, closing the box.

1 In a specific aspect of the present invention, the
2 coupling members each include an anchor portion positioned at
3 an outer surface of the opposing sides of the box, and a keeper
4 clip positioned on an inner surface of opposing sides of the
5 box. The keeper clip is attached to the anchor portion, with
6 each keeper clip removably receiving an end of one of the
7 plurality of ornament hangers.

8
9 In another aspect of the present invention, the coupling
10 members include inner side braces positioned within the box,
11 each overlying an inner surface of the opposing sides and
12 extending past the top of the bulk storage space to the bottom
13 of a desired position of the ornament tray. An upper edge of
14 each side brace includes slots formed therein to receive the
15 ends of the ornament hangers.

16
17 Also provided is a method of storing decoration for a
18 Christmas tree in a sequential manner for ease in subsequent
19 decoration of a Christmas tree.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing and further and more specific objects and advantages of the instant invention will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment thereof taken in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating a Christmas tree decoration organizer according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the Christmas tree decoration organizer of FIG. 1, with portion thereof removed;

FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of the Christmas tree decoration organizer of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a partial section side view of the Christmas tree decoration organizer of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged and exploded partial perspective view of an ornament hanger and coupling;

FIG. 6 is a plan view of an ornament hanger; and

1 FIG. 7 is a partial perspective view of another embodiment
2 of the Christmas tree decoration organizer according to the
3 present invention.

1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

2

3 Turning now to the drawings, in which like reference
4 characters indicate corresponding elements throughout the
5 several views, attention is first directed to FIG. 1 which
6 illustrates a Christmas tree decoration organizer generally
7 designated 10. Organizer 10 is intended to store the entire
8 collection of decorations, such as lights, ornaments, garlands
9 and base wrap, for a single tree in a compact and easily stored
10 configuration. The organization of the decorations within
11 organizer 10 is in a sequence which starts with the lights,
12 progresses through the ornaments to the garlands and finally
13 the base wrapping over the tree stand. Thus an individual
14 begins at the top of organizer 10 and, as the tree is
15 decorated, works toward the bottom, removing various elements
16 of the organizer to access underlying decorations.

17

18 With additional reference to FIGS. 2 and 3, organizer 10
19 includes a box 12 having a bottom 13, opposing sides 14 and end
20 walls 16. Sides 14 and end walls 16 terminate in an upper rim
21 15. A cover 17 removably fits over rim 15, closing box 12.
22 From bottom 13 of box 12 up, organizer 10 further includes a
23 bulk storage space 18 defined by bottom 13, lower portions of
24 sides 14 and end walls 16 and a plurality of ornament hangers

1 20. Ornament hangers 20 are elongated members that extend from
2 opposing sides 14 of box 12 in a generally spaced apart and
3 parallel relationship. Coupling of hangers 20 to box 12 will
4 be described in detail, but include a coupling which permits
5 easy removal and installation in box 12. Ornament hangers 20,
6 in turn, support an ornament tray 22 thereon. Dividers 23 are
7 positioned in tray 22 creating a plurality of compartments 24.
8 One skilled in the art will realize that tray 22 and dividers
9 23 can be fabricated as a unitary piece, such as by vacuum
10 molding plastic, or fabricated in multiple pieces using
11 plastic, corrugated paper, wood or the like. A separator panel
12 26 is placed over tray 22, covering all of compartments 24.
13 Panel 26 is a planar sheet of material which, when in position,
14 is supported on the side walls of tray 22 and the tops of
15 dividers 23. A light compartment 28 is defined by separator
16 panel 26, upper portions of sides 14 and end walls 16, and
17 cover 17.

18
19 It will be understood that organizer 10 can be fabricated
20 in different sizes to accommodate different amounts of
21 decoration for different size trees. It will also be
22 understood that organizer 10 can be made out of various
23 materials such as corrugated paper, plastic, and the like.
24 Additionally, the various elements, such as the ornament

1 hangers and ornament tray can also be fabricated of similar or
2 different materials as desired.

3
4 Turning now to FIG. 5, ornament hangers 20 are removably
5 coupled to box 12 using coupling members which can take various
6 forms. One form is described in connection with FIG. 7, and
7 will be described later in the description. Another form of
8 coupling members include an anchor member 30 having keyhole
9 apertures 32 formed therein, and a keeper clip 33 having pegs
10 34 extending from one side thereof and a slot 35 having an open
11 top formed in an opposing side thereof. Keeper clips 33 are
12 positioned on the inner surface of opposing sides 14 of box 12
13 with pegs 34 extending through apertures formed in opposing
14 sides 14 of box 12. Pegs 34 are received in keyhole apertures
15 32 of anchor members 30 and securely held in position. Once
16 installed, anchor portions 30 and keeper clips 33 do not need
17 to be removed. Hangers 20 each have tabs 37 extending from
18 ends thereof. Tabs 37 are slidably received in slots 35
19 through the open top thereof, and securely retained therein
20 when properly seated. Hangers 20 are easily removed by lifting
21 upwardly, sliding tabs 37 out of the open top of slots 35 of
22 keeper clips 33. While only one end and one set of coupling
23 members are illustrated in FIG. 5, it will be understood that
24 each end of each hanger 20 will be coupled to box 12 with a set

1 of coupling members, including anchor member 30, keeper clip 33
2 and tabs 37. With additional reference to FIG. 6, an example
3 of a hanger 20 is illustrated. A central slot 38 with serrated
4 bottom edge 39 permits ornaments to be hung thereon and
5 securely spaced without sliding, bunching and becoming
6 entangled.

7

8 With reference to FIG. 4, a decorator begins at the bottom
9 of organizer 10 when storing decorations. As an example of
10 sequential storing of tree decorations, the user removes the
11 outer layer of decorations first. These are typically
12 decorations such as Christmas garlands, which are placed in
13 bulk storage space 18, at the bottom of box 12. The user then
14 removes Christmas ornaments from the tree and hangs them on
15 ornament hangers 20. Ornament hangers 20 are then each coupled
16 into position on box 12, such as slid onto its corresponding
17 keeper clip as described previously. The user then places
18 ornament tray 22 into box 12 and it rests over the ornament
19 hangers 20. Additional ornaments are placed into compartments
20 24 of ornament tray 22. Separator panel 26 is then positioned
21 over ornament tray 22. Typically, the last decorations to be
22 removed from a Christmas tree are the lights. Christmas lights
23 are removed and wound into bundles or around light holders
24 and placed on top of separator panel 26. Cover 17 is then

1 placed on top of and closing box 12.

2

3 As can be readily understood from the preceding
4 description, a tree is undecorated in a logical/sequential
5 manner, and the decorations stored in corresponding portions of
6 organizer 10 as it is filled. A tree is decorated in the
7 reverse manner, with the lights being removed and positioned on
8 the tree first. Separator panel 26 is removed and the
9 ornaments in ornament tray 22 are removed and placed on the
10 tree. Next, ornament tray 22 is removed and ornament hangers
11 20 are each removed from attachment to box 12. By removing
12 each ornament hanger 20, the ornaments hanging thereon are
13 easily removed and hung on the tree. Finally, bulk storage
14 space 18 is revealed. Garlands and base wraps can now be
15 removed and added as a final touch to the tree decorations.

16

17 Turning now to FIG. 7, another embodiment of ornament
18 hangers generally designated 40 is illustrated. In this
19 embodiment, the coupling members include inner side braces 42
20 positioned within box 12 overlying the inner surface of
21 opposing sides 14, extending past the top of bulk storage space
22 18, and to the bottom of the desired position of tray 22.
23 Slots 44 are formed in the upper edge of side braces 42 to
24 receive the ends of ornament hangers 40. In this manner the

1 ends of hangers 40 and slots 44 cooperate to form coupling
2 members which are easily and quickly engagable and
3 disengagable. In this embodiment, side braces 42 and hangers
4 are preferably fabricated of corrugated paper. One skilled in
5 the art will understand that while corrugated paper or
6 cardboard is used, any of the elements described can be
7 fabricated of other materials such as plastic, wood, metal and
8 the like.

9
10 Various changes and modifications to the embodiments
11 herein chosen for purposes of illustration will readily occur
12 to those skilled in the art. To the extent that such
13 modifications and variations do not depart from the spirit of
14 the invention, they are intended to be included within the
15 scope thereof which is assessed only by a fair interpretation
16 of the following claims.

17
18 Having fully described the invention in such clear and
19 concise terms as to enable those skilled in the art to
20 understand and practice the same, the invention claimed is: